

Energy Efficient Homes Midwest (EEHM) - This is a voluntary, market-driven program developed by a coalition of housing industries, working in partnership with the Energy and Recycling Office. The mission of this program is to increase residential energy efficiency and provide more affordable housing in the process. At the request of a home buyer, seller, builder or lender, a rating of one to five stars will be assigned to a new or existing home (five stars being the most energy efficient). The rating will also provide an estimate of utility costs and may include recommendations for specific energy improvements. Houses that rate four stars and above are eligible for energy efficient mortgages (EEMs) available through most lenders. With an EEM, a lender is allowed to stretch a buyer's debt-to-income ratio used in the loan qualification procedure. In addition to making it easier to qualify for a mortgage, an energy rating will help consumers understand the overall energy costs associated with their most valuable asset, their home. For more information, contact Energy Efficient Homes Midwest: <http://www.eehmidwest.com> at (317) 915-9204 or e-mail: info@eehmidwest.com.